

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2004

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5163

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GE, AO, CG

SUBJECT: GDR/ZAIRE RELATIONS

REF: A) BERLIN 6870 B) BERLIN 5133

1. THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE ZAIRE EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN, KATAMBA SUNZU, IS A TROUBLED MAN WHO HAS RUN THE EMBASSY SINCE NOVEMBER 17 OF LAST YEAR WHEN HIS AMBASSADOR, MOJU FUTU-TANGU, WAS RECALLED TO KINSHASA FOR "CONSULTATION."

2. HE INFORMED US ON JANUARY 30 THAT HE HAD RECENTLY MADE SEVERAL EFFORTS TO DISCUSS HIS COUNTRY'S FOREIGN POLICY WITH GDR OFFICIALS. IN ONE RECENT CONVERATION, AMBASSADOR ROEDER, MFA SECTION CHIEF FOR EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA, REFUSED EVEN TO LISTEN TO SUNZU'S COMMENTS ON SOVIET AND CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA. WHEN SUNZU BACKED OFF TO DISCUSS ZAIRE'S INTERESTS
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RATHER THAN THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA, HOWEVER, ROEDER

CAREFULLY PUT A SMALL CHINK OF LIGHT BETWEEN SOVIET ACTIONS IN ANGOLA AND THE GDR'S VIEWS. ALTHOUGH A VERY SUBTLE STEP ON ROEDER'S PART, THIS SEEMED TO SUNZU A FAINT BUT READABLE GDR DISCOMFORT WITH THE SOVIET ROLE IN CENTRAL AFRICA. SUNZU BELIEVES THE REGIME IS CONCERNED THAT ZAIRE MAY EVENTUALLY SEVER ITS RELATIONS WITH EAST GERMANY, A DEVELOPMENT THAT WOULD HARM THE GDR'S BROADER AFRICAN INTERESTS, AND DEPRIVE EAST GERMANY OF ITS IMPORTS FROM ZAIRE.

3. CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA, SUNZU TOLD US THAT A BASIC GOAL OF THE MPLA WITH RESPECT TO ZAIRE IS TO ISOLATE THAT COUNTRY'S ACCESS ROUTES TO THE ATLANTIC BY CUTTING OFF RAILWAY TRAFFIC BEYOND DILOLO AND RIVER TRAFFIC AT MATADI. HE SAID THAT WHILE THE MPLA IS MEETING EFFECTIVE RESISTANCE IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO SECURE CONTROL OVER THE CABINDA REGION, THIS SITUATION COULD CHANGE IN A MATTER OF WEEKS.

4. COMMENT: AS REPORTED REFTELS, GDR JOURNALISTS COVERING ANGOLA HAVE BEEN TOLD TO AVOID TREATING ZAIRE'S ROLE IN THE CONFLICT AND HAVE GENERALLY DOWNPLAYED EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THE CIVIL WAR THERE. THE ZAIRE CHARGE'S BELIEF THAT THE GDR IS WORRIED THAT ZAIRE COULD AT SOME POINT BREAK OFF RELATIONS OVER THE ANGOLA ISSUE IS A FURTHER INDICATION THAT THE GDR IS TREADING CAREFULLY TO AVOID GIVING COUNTRIES LIKE ZAIRE A PRETEXT FOR FOLLOWING THE MOROCCAN PRECEDENT IN SEVERING RELATIONS WITH THE GDR TO SIGNAL DISPLEASURE WITH THE SOVIET UNION. GROVE

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